

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONTEV 01997 291746 Z

47

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04

OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /119 W

----- 087856

O R 291642 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4763

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CINCSO

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 1997

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJECT: LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1930

1. SUMMARY. MONTEVIDEO IS GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL LIFE AFTER THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE ON JUNE 26. THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED TODAY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE BUT NOT OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRESS REPORTS TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, NESTOR BOLENTINI, AND LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST- DOMINATED CNT LABOR CONFEDERATION ON JUNE 27 AND 28. AT THE LATTER MEETING THE CNT LEADERS DELIVERED A LETTER TO THE MINISTER WHICH AFFIRMED THE " PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS" OF URUGUAYAN WORKERS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONTEV 01997 291746 Z

THEIR DESIRE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT CRISIS " WITHOUT THE IMPOSITION OF FURTHER SUFFERING." THE CNT LEADERS SAID THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S SPEECH OF JUNE 27

SOUGHT THIS SAME END. THE LETTER TO BOLENTINI CONTINUED, " NOR DO WE UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH HIGH GOALS AS YOU YOURSELF HAVE EXPRESSED NECESSARILY HAD TO BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION." THE CNT LETTER THEN REQUESTED: (A) THE RESTORATION OF FULL POLITICAL AND LABOR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. (B) THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS. (C) ECONOMIC MEASURES LIKE THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE BANKING SYSTEM. (D) IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING. (E) AN END TO "FASCIST" BANDS IN THE SCHOOLS. BOLENTINI REPORTEDLY ASSURED CNT LEADERS THAT UNION RIGHTS WOULD BE RESPECTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

3. A NUMBER OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE RESIGNED OR EXPRESSED THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSURE OF CONGRESS. THE RESIGNATIONS OF PABLO PURRIEL, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, JOSE ROBIANA ANSO, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AND WALTER CAMPO, THE UNDERSECRETARY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED. JORGE PRESNO, THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, ANGEL SERVETTI, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND RICARDO ZERBINO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HAVE PRESENTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS BUT AGREED TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL SUCCESSORS CAN BE FOUND. CAMPO, ACCORDING TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE EMBASSY SOURCE, SAID ON JUNE 28 THAT SERVETTI'S AND ZERBINO'S RESIGNATIONS WERE IN PART THE RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM MILITARY SECTORS FOR THEIR REMOVAL. THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT WAGE AND PRICE CONTROL COMMISSION (COPRIN), FAUSTINO LORENZO, THE GOVERNOR ("INTENDENTE") OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROCHA, DOMINGO LOPEZ, A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL (CONAE), AQUILES LANZA, AND A MEMBER OF THE SECONDARY EDUCATION COUNCIL, DIDIER OPERTTI, HAVE ALSO RESIGNED. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE NEW COUNCIL OF STATE WILL BE NAMED NEXT WEEK. SPECULATION ABOUT ITS COMPOSITION FOCUSES ON A NUMBER OF CONSERVATIVE CIVILIANS, SOME OF WHOM SERVED IN THE NOW-DISSOLVED LEGISLATURE.

4. CENSORSHIP HAS SEVERELY LIMITED OPPPOSITION ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. ON JUNE 27 THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR INFORMED THE PRESS THAT THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ARTICLES ARE PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONTEV 01997 291746 Z

HIBITED: (1) " THOSE WHICH NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE PRESTIGE OF THE EXECUTIVE OR OF THE ARMED FORCES OR WHICH WOULD DISTURB SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER"; (2) " THOSE CONCERNING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE; (3) " REPORTS ON POLITICAL LEADERS, LEGISLATORS, OR ANYONE ELSE WHICH VIOLATES ARTICLE ONE OF THIS DECREE; " (4) " STORIES ABOUT THE DETENTION OF THOSE CHARGED BY THE MILITARY JUSTICE"; AND (5) " CALLS FOR POLITICAL MEETINGS WHICH VIOLATE

ARTICLE ONE."

5. IN SPITE OF THE CENSORSHIP SOME PAPERS DID PUBLISH EDITORIALS. "LA MANANA" SAID THAT IT DID NOT LIKE WHAT HAD HAPPENED BUT THAT "THE PRESIDENT HAD NO OTHER WAY TO SAVE THE ESSENCE OF THE INSTITUTIONS." "EL PAIS" CALLED FOR THE GREATEST EFFORTS TO MAKE THE PRESENT SIAUTION AS BRIEF AN INTERRUPTION OF THE NORMAL ORDER AS POSSIBLE. THE COMMUNIST PAPER "EL POPULAR" SAID THAT IT DISAGREED WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND THAT THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTIRES IN LATIN AMERICA SHOWED THAT DOING SO WITHOUT A "TOTAL CHANGE OF THE GOVERNMENT" WILL NOT PRODUCE SOCIAL CHANGE.

6. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, INTERIOR MINISTER BOLENTINI ATTEMPTED ON JUNE 28 TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, SAMUEL LICHTENSZTEJN, WHEREBY THE GOU WOULD RESPECT THE UNIVERSITY'S AUTONOMY, PROVIDED THAT STUDENT PROTESTS WERE CONFINED TO THE CAMPUS. LECHTENSZTEJN REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE STUDENTS AND BOLENTINI IMPLIED THAT THE UNIVERSITY MIGHT BE CLOSED. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO CONFINE THEIR ACTIONS TO THE OCCUPATION OF THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. OUR SOURCE IS HOPEFUL THAT ACTUAL CONFRONTATION MAY BE AVOIDED.

7. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CNT APPEAR TO BE SEEKING A "MODUS VIVENDI" WHICH WOULD AVOID THE MOST LIKELY SOURCE OF CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, RECALCITRANT Factions WITHIN EITHER THE MILITARY OR THE UNIONS COULD PRODUCE A CONFLICT. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, LIKEWISE, HAVE NOT BEEN NEUTRALIZED ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR CALM AT PRESENT. THE IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF A WAGE INCREASE PROMISED FOR JULY 1 COULD EITHER PRODUCE NE  
E E E E E E E

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JUN 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MONTEV01997  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** CORE6  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MONTEVIDEO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730633/aaaajvbr.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 15 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980306  
**Subject:** LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS  
**TAGS:** PINT, UY  
**To:** ARA  
BUENOS AIRES  
CINCSO  
DIA WASHDC  
LA PAZ  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005